

and those with developed ovaries were examined for the presence of external queen characters.

## RESULTS

Foragers of three undescribed species of *Terataner* were found at field study sites but their nests were not located. Data from complete colonies of six species; two previously described and four undescribed, are included in this study:

*T. alluaudi*, the most common *Terataner* in northern Madagascar, is a large (7.3 mm) black species with conspicuous orange legs. It is found from just above sea level (20 m) on the northeast and northwest coasts to about 500 m inland. It ranges from 12°S near Antsiranana (Diego Suarez: type locality) in the north, to a latitude of 15°S near Marofinaritra.

*T. foreli* is a medium-sized (5.3 mm) black and orange species distributed along the eastern coast of Madagascar from 14°S to 19°S latitude and from 50 to 800 meters altitude. Morphologically, it is more variable than other species presently known from Madagascar, and has the widest distribution.

*T. sp. a* is very similar to *T. alluaudi* but is larger (7.9 mm) and has black, rather than orange, legs. *T. sp. a* has only been collected from the northeast coast of the Masoala Peninsula. Occurring in forested foothills from 50 m to 100 m altitude, its habitat is threatened by the advance of agriculture at these lower elevations.

*T. sp. b* is a small (4.5 mm), entirely black species, closely related to *T. foreli*. It has only been found along the northeast coast of the Masoala Peninsula and a few kilometers inland.

*T. sp. c* is restricted to the Lokobe forest, a "Réserves Naturelles Intégrales" along the southeast coast of Nosy Be, an island off the northwest coast of Madagascar. The protection of this reserve is vital to the survival of this ant.

*T. sp. d* is restricted to the Ankarana forest in the "Réserves Spéciales" of north central Madagascar. The protection of this reserve is vital to the survival of this ant. Figure 1 illustrates the distribution of *Terataner* species included in this study.

### Colony Composition

All six *Terataner* species nest in plant cavities, typically in dead branches or twigs that are on the ground or in bushes close to the